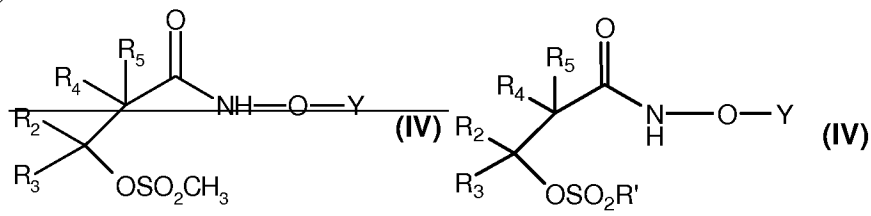
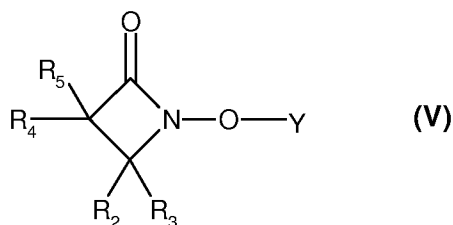


in the presence of a base in a suitable solvent, under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (IV)



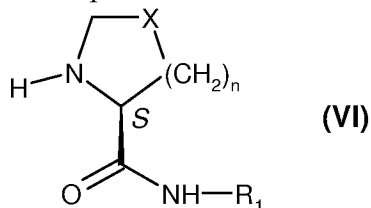
followed by Step C:

contacting compound (IV) with a base in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (V)

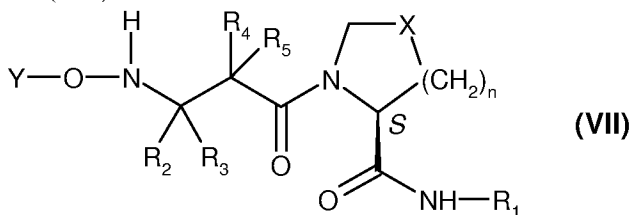


followed by Step D:

contacting compound (V) with a compound of the formula (VI)



in a suitable solvent optionally in the presence of an activator under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (VII)



followed by Step E:

contacting compound (VII) with a formylating agent in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form compound (VIII);

wherein

Y is a hydroxy protecting group;

Each of R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 , independently, is hydrogen or an aliphatic group, ~~or (R_2 and R_3) and/or (R_4 and R_5) collectively form a C_{4-7} cycloalkyl;~~

~~X is $-CH_2-$, $-S-$, $-CH(OH)-$, $-CH(OR)-$, $-CH(SH)-$, $-CH(SR)-$, $-CF_2-$, $-C=N(OR)-$ or $-CH(F)-$;~~

~~wherein~~

~~R is alkyl;~~

G is $-OH$ or $-O^{\ominus}M^{\oplus}$, wherein M is a metal or an ammonium moiety;

R_1 is aryl or heteroaryl;

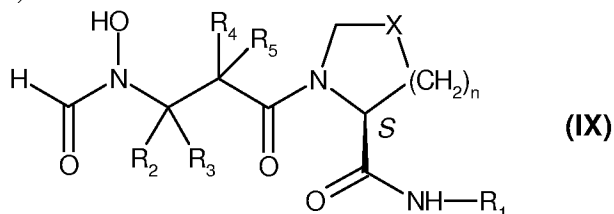
X' is halo;

R' is alkyl or aryl; and

n is 1 ~~0 to 3, provided that when n is 0, X is $-CH_2-$.~~

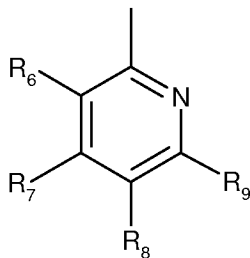
Claim 2. (Original) The process of Claim 1, followed by additional Step F which comprises contacting the compound of formula (VIII), wherein R_1 is heteroaryl having an *N* heteroatom, with an oxidizing agent to form the corresponding *N*-oxide derivative.

Claim 3. (Original) The process of Claim 1, followed by the additional step of removing the hydroxyl-protecting group by contacting compound (VIII) with a palladium catalyst to form the compound of formula (IX)



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , X and n are as defined above.

Claim 4. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein each of R_2 , R_3 and R_5 is hydrogen; R_4 is butyl; X is $-CH_2-$; n is 1; Y is benzyl or *t*-butyldimethylsilyl; and R_1 is of the formula



wherein

R₆ and R₉ are hydrogen;

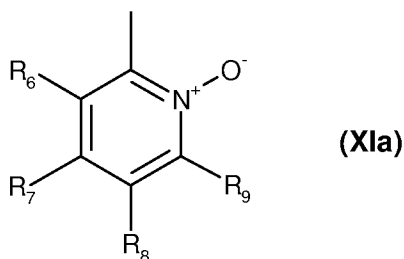
R₇ is hydrogen or C₁₋₇alkyl; and

R₈ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁₋₇alkyl.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 4 [[2]], wherein R₇ is hydrogen; and R₈ is fluoro.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 4 [[2]], wherein R₇ is C₁₋₇ alkyl; and R₈ is hydrogen.

Claim 7. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein R₁ is of the formula (XIa)



wherein

R₆, R₇ and R₉ are hydrogen; and

R₈ is halogen or C₁₋₇alkyl.

Claim 8. (Original) The process of Claim 7, wherein R₈ is fluoro.

Claim 9. (Original) The process of Claim 1, carried out at a temperature of about 0°C to about 80°C, a pH of about 2 to about 12, and in one or more solvents selected from the group consisting of dioxane, methylene chloride, dichloromethane, toluene, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, THF, isopropyl acetate, DMF and an alcohol.

Claims 10 – 37. (Cancelled)